

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12 EUR-12 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /106 W
-----081519 191539Z /41

P R 191456Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7985
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4921

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, OAU, ET, SO
SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF SOMALI AMBASSADOR ON THE OGADEN ISSUE

REF: LAGOS 4736

1. SOMALI AMBASSADOR GARAD TOLD ME APRIL 19 THAT HE CONSIDERS IT LIKELY THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSONER GARBA WILL TRAVEL TO MOGADISCIO AND ADDIS ABABA NEXT WEEK TO SEE IF HE CAN IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR AN OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE OGADEN ISSUE.

2. GARAD SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR ITS READINESS TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS BUT STRONGLY PREFERS THAT IT BE AT HEAD OF STATE LEVEL. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1973 AT THE HEAD OF STATE LEVEL AND THAT SOMALIA HAS ALWAYS FELT THAT ONLY HEADS OF STATE HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A SOLUTION OF THE OGADEN PROBLEM. THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE HAD MET ONLY ONCE, AT LIBREVILLE IN AUGUST OF
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1977, AND SOMALIA HAD QUICKLY WITHDRAWN FROM THAT MEETING, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT WAS BEING CONDUCTED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. GARAD SAID THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAD NEVERTHELESS FINALLY AGREED TO SEND ITS FOREIGN MINISTER TO LAGOS FOR THE APRIL 10 MEETING OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE

PROPOSED BY NIGERIA. THIS VISIT HAD BEEN ABORTED AT THE LAST MINUTE UPON RECEIPT OF WORD THAT THE FMG HAD CANCELLED THE MEETING BECAUSE IT CONSIDERED PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS TO BE HOPELESS. GARAD BELIEVES THE FMG WILL REMAIN UNWILLING TO HOST A GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING UNLESS THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT DROPS ITS PRECONDITIONS FOR ATTENDING SUCH A MEETING.

4. COMMENT: GARBA HAD EARLIER THOUGHT OF GOING TO MOGADISCIO AND ADDIS THIS WEEK (REFTEL), BUT THE PRESENCE HERE OF PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MAY HAVE INTERFERED WITH THIS.
WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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